

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

DECEMBER 13, 2011

**Ensuring Food Security for Youth Who Age Out of Foster Care.**

Foster care youth who are between ages 18 and 21 and who age out of foster care are extremely vulnerable to homelessness and economic and nutritional insecurity. They face disproportionately higher rates of unemployment, especially within two to four years of emancipation. Los Angeles County must take steps to ensure that these youth are appropriately enrolled in existing low income government assistance programs as they become emancipated to facilitate their successful transition toward independence.

CalFresh is a federally funded nutritional program that provides low income individuals, children and families with benefits that can be used to purchase food. The average CalFresh benefit is approximately \$200 a month for a one-person household.

The majority of youth aging-out of foster care are potentially eligible for CalFresh benefits. Unfortunately, a recent quarterly report (July to September, 2011) from the State of California's Department of Social Services indicates that only 7% of aging-out

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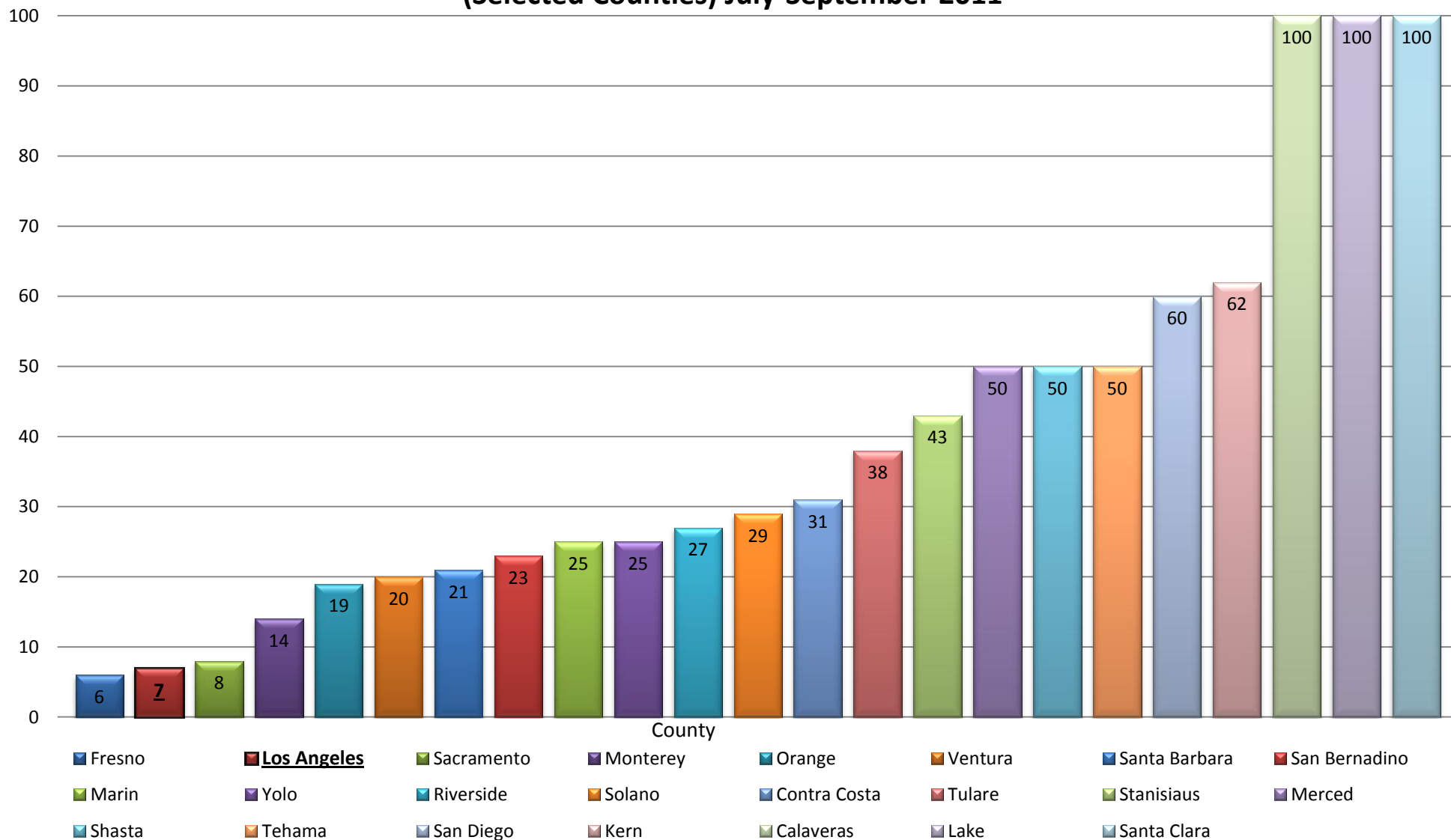
youth in Los Angeles County enrolled in this critical program. Statewide, on average, only 23% of aging-out foster youth applied for CalFresh benefits. (See attached charts).

**THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DIRECT:**

1. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Interim Directors of the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) and Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to develop and implement a plan to ensure complete CalFresh applications are timely and successfully submitted on behalf of foster youth, ages 18-21, when dependency is terminated. This plan should be developed with input from representatives of the affected foster youth community and should suggest pathways to improve enrollment in and retention of other critical government-funded programs, including but not limited to Medi-Cal; and
2. The CEO and Interim Directors of DPSS and DCFS to report back in writing in 30 days on the plan and to quarterly report back on the County's improved rates of successfully enrolling aging-out foster youth into the CalFresh and other programs.

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## Percentage of Aging Out Foster Youth Getting CalFresh by County (Selected Counties) July-September 2011



Exit Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care , Quarterly Statistical Report (July-September 2011), State of California - Health and Human Services Agency,  
California Department of Social Services Data Systems and Design Bureau

Exit Outcomes for Youth Aging Out of Foster Care: Quarterly Statistical Report (SOC 405E) July - September 2011

State of California - Health and Human Services Agency

California Department of Social Services: Data Systems and Survey Design Bureau

Column1	Youth Aging Out	Youth Applied for Food Stamps	Percentage of Youth who Applied for Food Stamps
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>590</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>23%</b>
San Diego	48	29	60%
San Bernadino	79	18	23%
Riverside	62	17	27%
Kern	16	10	62%
Santa Clara	10	10	100%
Orange	42	8	19%
Sacramento	77	6	8%
Contra Costa	19	6	31%
Tulare	16	6	38%
Los Angeles	71	5	7%
Fresno	53	3	6%
Santa Barbara	14	3	21%
Stanislaus	7	3	43%
Ventura	10	2	20%
Solano	7	2	29%
Lake	2	2	100%
Monterey	7	1	14%
Marin	4	1	25%
Yolo	4	1	25%
Merced	2	1	50%
Shasta	2	1	50%
Tehama	2	1	50%
Calaveras	1	1	100%
San Mateo	10	0	0%
San Luis Obispo	8	0	0%
Butte	5	0	0%
Placer	3	0	0%
Yuba	3	0	0%
Lassen	2	0	0%
El Dorado	1	0	0%
Kings	1	0	0%
Napa	1	0	0%
Santa Cruz	1	0	0%
Alameda	0	0	0%
Alpine	0	0	0%
Amador	0	0	0%
Glenn	0	0	0%
Humboldt	0	0	0%
Inyo	0	0	0%
Mariposa	0	0	0%
Nevada	0	0	0%
San Benito	0	0	0%
San Joaquin	0	0	0%
Sierra	0	0	0%
Siskiyou	0	0	0%
Sutter	0	0	0%
Trinity	0	0	0%